

# December

Magic Lantern Society



*Click image*

Be Sure to LOOK for those  
Buttons and roll-over effects

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*Some Slides of a Christmas Carol*



**18th International Convention  
2018  
April 20th to 22nd  
Victoria BC, Canada**

Join us to be part of the education and entertainment



**The Inn at Laurel Point**

It come to our attention that one or two people have booked places at the Inn at Laurel Point for the Convention through booking agencies such

as Expedia. Unfortunately this means that those rooms will not be in the block reserved for the Magic Lantern Society and will not have the window views our block has, besides probably costing a bit more than our special rate negotiated with the hotel. It is encouraged to book using the link provided for the purpose to get the best value for money.

There is a special booking link for our delegates. Please click on below:

<https://reservations.travelclick.com/12209?groupID=2027681>

or you can contact  
Cheri Koohtow, CMP  
Events Coordinator  
Inn at Laurel Point  
Local Number: (250) 414-6733  
Toll Free Number: (800) 663-7667



education and entertainment with panache

the registration form coming soon

**to an e-mail box near you!**





here's something  
**NEW**



### Your Participation!

Please share your story with other society members.  
There is much to learn about your interest or that treasured possession.

- ◆ Share your story or image and description of a treasured item!
- ◆ How did you become interested in the lantern?
- ◆ How and when did you join society?
- ◆ What's your favorite lantern or slide and why?
- ◆ What part of the lantern interests you the most?
- ◆ Your reward for participating will be:  
tag a member so we can get their story

**Word Selfie —word count 400-600 or more**  
**Lantern or slide Image Max size —10" x 7" @ 120 ppi**



What was that unusual lantern

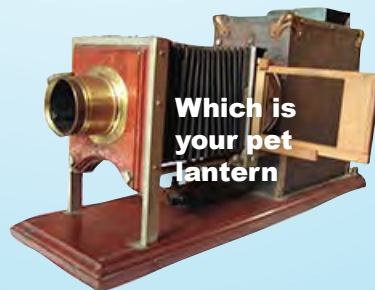


What is your favorite type lantern slide or slide set

Tell us about your go-to book on lanterns



What's your favorite light source



Which is your pet lantern

the first ML selfie on page six



## Mervyn Heard



Mervyn seen performing in Revelstoke BC

You may have already learned this sad news from elsewhere, or possibly didn't have the pleasure of knowing Mervyn Heard in person or seeing his shows, in which case please accept my apologies for bothering you with an unsolicited message. We wouldn't normally use our Society mailing list for this type of message, but felt that Mervyn was so widely known and admired as to make an exception.

I'm very sorry to say that Mervyn died last week, peacefully after a long illness. It's an understatement to say that he'll be greatly missed - he was the leading British magic lantern performer of the past decade or two; a researcher and author; a former Chairman of our Society; editor of our Newsletter for some years; and more recently the driving force behind our successful e-letter New Light on Old Media.

The funeral will take place on Friday 1 December in Bath, but we have been asked to mention that it is intended to be a small occasion for family and close friends. We plan to hold a full celebration of Mervyn and his work at one of our quarterly meetings next year, possibly in April, and of course will circulate information about that in due course.

If you have any questions or would like to pass on any messages or thoughts to Jo and her family, do please get in touch.

With best wishes to you and yours,  
Richard

-----  
Richard Crangle  
Secretary and Treasurer, Magic Lantern  
Society  
17 Dean Street  
Exeter EX2 4HH  
U.K.

Coming Event

**Friday**

**December 8, 2017, 2:30 pm**

### **Ten years of the Conservatoire des techniques, tribute to two pioneers:**

Émile Reynaud (1844-1918) and  
Georges Dmený (1850-1917)

Conference by Sylvie Saerens and  
Laurent Mannoni, presentation of  
rare cameras, film screenings

For its ten years of activity, the  
Conservatoire des techniques pays  
tribute to two fabulous film pioneers,  
Emile Reynaud and Georges  
Demený, who disappeared at the end  
of 1917 and the beginning of 1918.

Next lecture:

**Friday,**

**January 12, 2018, 2:30 pm,**

Animated Cinema: The Story of Idéfix  
Studios, Pierre Lambert Conference with  
the participation of Patrick Cohen and  
former collaborators of Idéfix Studios.



## About Hand-coloured Photography

**BY PETER ALSOP**  
**on 13 October 2016**

For such a long-running extravaganza, there remains much to be recorded about hand-coloured photography. There are very few books in print and, even then, most relate to mastering the technical craft. The sparse coverage is despite hand-colouring's diverse arts and social outings through time – from postcards to

advertising slides to widespread use of chromolithography (essentially hand-colouring in print); all well before a wider influence on the visual arts and the omnipresence of digital-colouring today.

As discussed in Part 1, Kodak's breakthrough cameras in the late-1800s fuelled public interest in photography – and in hand-colouring's added spice. Printing developments in the early-1900s further helped, as newspapers began including photographs, while tourism agencies photographically promoted national attractions. Hand-colouring wasn't far from the beat; glass lantern slides were extensively produced and coloured before being sent abroad, or used locally to promote 'seeing your own country' alongside a wide range of domestic advertising. The postcard craze of the early 1900s, across a vast array of subject matter, furthered a 'coloured' world view. Even a tin of cigarettes came with 'five real Hand Coloured Photographs of "Types of Modern Beauty".'



Hand-coloured slides were used extensively across decades in cinema advertising. The early tourism efforts of a number of countries also used hand-coloured slides.

<https://www.digitalrev.com/article/colouring-in>

By  
**Bob and  
Sue Hall**

## CAN YOU TOP THIS?

When we had retired from our real jobs in 1996 Sue totally “flunked” retirement. To keep her from going crazy we started selling at antique shows up and down the west coast. (This didn’t entirely work for the “crazy” part but it did help and we had a lot of fun doing it.)

When we traveled we stopped at every antique shop we passed and there were times when we only made 50 miles a day. We found that about every tenth antique dealer we talked to even knew what magic lanterns and slides were, and of them, maybe every tenth one would have something in their stock, and if they did we bought it. We got used to hearing the phrase, “Oh, I just had some of those but sold them two weeks ago,” or the like, and learned to NEVER say that to a customer when we were selling antiques. It is just not a phrase you want to hear if you are an avid collector.

As an aside, sometimes we would be looking in a lantern and there would be a business card from Joe Koch with contact information about our magic lantern society. Upon rare occasion we would even find one from Bob Bishop.

Early in our collecting days (pre-selling antiques) we stopped at an antique store somewhere in California. The dealer did know

what magic lantern slides were and although he didn’t have any he knew where some were to be found. How he brokered the deal we have no idea, nor did we really care. For \$2,300.00 we bought 2,300 “coming attraction” movie slides. They were mailed to us in two Styrofoam coolers and not very well packed. On one box, a corner was mashed in and we lost two hundred or so slides due to breakage.

These slides came from two brothers who owned a theater in the deep South and had amassed this collection over the years. Most of the slides dated ca. 1910 to ca. 1930, so were all silent films or early “talkies.” It was our understanding that when a film was rented from a distributing company the film, posters, window cards, slides, etc. were sent to the theater, all of which were to be returned to the film company when the movie had finished its “run.” Obviously there were ways to get around this since there is so much of this material in circulation. At any rate we were the fortunate recipient of the brothers’ plethora of slides and were thrilled to pieces.

Then there was the question of how to sort and store the slides---alphabetically by title of the film, name of the producer or director, film company, etc. We decided to file them by the last name of the star that got top billing on the slide. Unless we wanted to spend



days of our lives cross-referencing this seemed to make the most sense to us and worked very well. The first public lantern show we ever did was at the Magic Lantern Castle at a convention hosted by Jack Judson in San Antonio, Texas. It consisted of showing some of our better movie slides with a short narrative of some interesting facts about the star of the film. It was really pretty dry. Sue introduced the show by announcing that it was our “virgin” show and to “please be gentle.” At the completion of the show, Betty Peabody quipped, “It was good for us. We hope it was good for you.”

Somewhere in those early days of collecting, we joined the Magic Lantern Society of Great Britain and then later the North American society. In 1989, while attending a meeting of the Northwest Corner of the Magic Lantern Society of the US and Canada, Larry Cederblom shared some interesting news. On eBay (which had very few items for sale at that time compared to today) a Houdini “coming

*continued next page*

## CAN YOU TOP THIS? continued

attraction” magic lantern slide had sold for \$1,400! We were all astounded (and amazed.)

Never had we considered selling any of our collection, nor did we think we ever would. Of course, we didn’t think we would get old either! After Larry’s announcement, Sue looked at me and said, “I think we have a Houdini movie slide. Would you sell it for that amount?” She insists I answered, “For \$1,400 I would sell you.” I’m sure I didn’t but she claims to have witnesses.

We were still eBay neophytes at that time but did manage to get the slide listed a couple of weeks later in December. To our amazement the slide sold for \$1450.00. Wow! Houdini had made three movies, not very good ones according to experts, and when looking for the first slide we discovered that we had TWO Houdini movie slides and so next listed the second one. The first one had a photo of Houdini on it, the second one didn’t, so we did not expect to get as much for it. On the last day Sue kept going in and checking on progress and the slide rose to \$1400 and stayed there. She turned off the computer and said she would not look again until it had closed. When we finally looked we had a wonderful Christmas present. The slide sold for \$2,400.25. We think that might be a record for highest amount paid for a regular lantern slide. Can you top it? We’d like to know your story if you can.

Our story goes on. The first slide sold to a man in Texas who was nervous about sending us the

money and about trusting us to mail him the slide. He belonged to the Houdini collecting society and had a good friend who lived in Olympia WA, about 40 miles south of us. We had to meet this man in the dark parking lot of a motel and hand off the slide and he gave us the cash. It was just what we think it might be like to do a drug deal.

The second slide sold to a man in New York. We had also sold an autograph book to someone in New York at the same time. You can guess what Sue did. The autograph book guy called about a week later and said he did not get his book, just some strange piece of glass. Panic occurred! Sue called the Houdini guy and explained what happened. He calmly said he would return the book to us when he got it and to send the slide to him when it was returned to us by the other guy. All was eventually straightened out and we didn’t even get negative feedback, even though Sue insisted we deserved it.

The story continues. Some months later we were contacted by the Texas buyer. He was writing a book on Houdini. Houdini had four slides sets made by The Standard Slide Company of New York. “The slides were made under Houdini’s direction using photographs and engravings, many from his own collection, as their source material.” He used these slides to enhance his lectures on the fraudulent practices of mediums, clairvoyants, and spiritualists. He devoted his later life to this cause and lectured to civic, Christians, educational, etc. organizations, according to Arthur Moses, Houdini expert.

The author and purchaser of the first Houdini movie slide was Arthur Moses. He contacted us by phone saying he was writing a book about Houdini and wanted to include a chapter on Houdini’s lantern

slide sets. Would we please send him some information on lanterns and slides for the introduction to the chapter? We were happy to do so and this introduction appears in the book.

There is an extensive chapter on lanterns, slides, and specifically Houdini’s set, showing all the slides with the captions Houdini had written. This is a good book for any magic lantern historian because in all our years in the Society, attending conventions, reading the Gazette, etc. we have never seen any information about lantern shows given by Houdini in spite of the fact that he gave many from 1922 until his untimely death in 1926.

The title of the book is “Houdini Speaks Out” by Arthur Moses ISBN 978-1-42576740-2. Although our information is dated, at that time if you wished to purchase a book you could do so at [www.Xlibris.com](http://www.Xlibris.com) or contact the author directly at [Houdini.magic@gmail.com](mailto:Houdini.magic@gmail.com).

As we were concluding our phone conversations with Arthur Moses about lanterns and slides, Sue asked why the slides went for so much money. He said he belonged to two collecting societies. One was a classic car club and if you needed a part you would be told where to get it or even offered if for free by a member who had an extra one and who would then offer to help you work on your car.

However in Mr. Moses’ words, “Houdini collectors are vultures. They’ll die before they disclose their sources!” Sounds like some magic lantern collectors that we have known!



## Follow-up of November Article Johnstown Flood

### THE STORY OF BLACKHAWK FILMS

From David Donaldson



Back in 1960s, the Blackhawk company was a major supplier of 8mm films and also of slide sets in 35mm. There was a reproduction set of slides that were used by the operator of a cinema in early days.

Intriguing was the slide on the lines of "Please Do Not Spit, remember the Johnstown Flood".

Your article on p8 of November newsletter gives some background. Thanks!

See you in April.

David  
Donaldson  
Adelaide,  
South Australia



by Mark Roth

<http://reelclassicdvd.com/BlackhawkFilms.htm>

The Blackhawk Films library is primarily the accomplishment of Kent D. Eastin, who started business in 1927 making film ads for merchants, filming local news events for theater newsreels, and selling outdated, independent 35mm theatrical film prints for toy projectors of the day. All of this from the basement of his parents' home in Galesburg, Illinois. With the advent of 16mm sound film in 1934, Eastin moved his company to Davenport, Iowa and began a rental library that flourished until it was discontinued under the impact of television in 1957. Eastin selected Davenport as an efficient junction for rail shipping and because it was something of a "film town", as home to the Victor Animatograph Corporation, a pioneer motion picture equipment manufacturer.

Martin D. Phelan, with background in direct mail and management, left Montgomery Ward to partner with Eastin in 1947, and assume responsibility for the business side of the developing company. The Blackhawk name was first used for an auxiliary business, liquidating stocks of used 16mm prints from British Information Services, Mills Panoram Soundies and other libraries and producers. Blackhawk began publishing monthly catalogs in 1949. More than 2,500,000 used films were sold by mail order before this business was discontinued in 1981.

In 1952, Blackhawk introduced its own releases in both 8mm and 16mm. Included in this "Collector Series" were Laurel and Hardy silents from Hal Roach Studios, authorized editions of Keystone comedies licensed by Sennett's original backer, Roy Aitken and a grouping of railroad films (Kent Eastin was an avid train enthusiast. He had a basement wall of bound timetables). In time, Blackhawk grew to dominate the "home movie" field with a base of 125,000 customers.

Boasting up to eighteen new releases every month, an in-house film restoration facility better than any then possessed by an archive, and more than ninety employees working in a picturesque century-old building of roughly 30,000 square feet. Fox Movietone News, Killiam Shows and National Telefilm Associates (now Republic Pictures) joined Hal Roach as important suppliers for film releases and television production was added to the company's successful endeavors.

David Shepard, the present owner of the Blackhawk Library, was employed by Eastin-Phelan during these years. David began working closely with Kent Eastin from the American Film Institute in the late 1960's to ensure permanent preservation of Blackhawk's unique original films at the Library of Congress. He joined the organization in 1973, becoming Vice President of Product Development.

In 1975, Kent Eastin and Martin Phelan sold Blackhawk to Lee Enterprises, Inc., a successful newspaper and broadcasting conglomerate. Blackhawk wrestled with the requirements and styles of new managers just at the time video cassettes began to redefine home entertainment. Basic decisions to emphasize mail order sales instead of unique product line and heavy investments in the Betamax and CED (RCA mechanical video disc) formats proved very costly. Lee Enterprises sold the company to its Blackhawk management team, who struggled on until 1985 when Republic Pictures bought it for direct marketing of their home video line. Republic discontinued film sales and closed the Davenport facility in 1987. It was the end of an era and a sad day for film collectors the world over.



## Lantern Slides of World War I

### From Tom Sutter

“To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the United States’ entrance into The Great War, the Menasha Public Library in Menasha, Wisconsin sponsored 5 lectures. One was by member Tom Sutter who spoke on Why Should We Remember and How

Do We Remember the War. Other lectures by local history professors discussed the origins of the war and detailed its course. The final lecture spoke of how the war was remembered in art, literature and movies.

Also, during the month of November the Library’s art wall featured 25 photographic prints from Tom Sutter’s collection of glass lantern slides of World War I. Tom has displayed on the wall in the past featuring the national parks then and now, Civil War topics and maps of Wisconsin. When appropriate he includes prints from scanned lantern slides in his presentations. His lantern slides of Wilson A. “Snowflake” Bentley are featured in his presentations to local schools. Some of his World War I slides appear with this notice.”

Thank you.  
Tom

Attorney thomas h. Sutter  
2631 N. Meade street, suite 101  
Appleton, wi 54911



Big four  
conference



Laying wreath at tomb of  
unknown soldier



Foch and Pershing



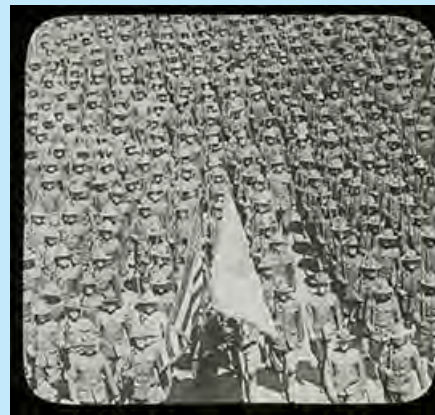
American cemetery at Oise-Aisne



Advanced post Volgodarsky



Soldiers in line from above



Soldiers on parade



Women in ammunition factory



## Durer Lantern Slide

**From Sandra Ward**

wardsandra000@gmail.com

Hello, I would like to request information/email updates on membership and events. I have 3 Alfred Durer slides that I would like to know more about also. To whom would I direct my questions such as, date of production and value? Thank you,  
Sandra Ward

Dear Sandra

Do you mean slides of paintings by the 16th Century German artist Albrecht Durer, or are the slides marked 'Alfred Durer' as a slide manufacturer? If the former, any extra information, such as slide maker, title, size (probably 3.25" square or 3.25" x 4") would help to draw conclusions about them. If you could send me images of them we could include them in our next E-Publication, which goes to all our members. Maybe one of them is a specialist in this subject.

Details of membership, application form etc should be available on our web site. If not for some reason, I can send you details. We have an International Convention next April in Victoria BC, Canada which you would be welcome to attend if you so wish.

Thank you for contacting us.

David Evans  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Magic Lantern Society of US & Canada



## Slides of Father Steck

**From: William**

williamaringmeyer@gmail.com

I have recently seen a collection of slides belonging to a historian by the name of father Steck. He wrote about Spanish American history and notably about The Marquette Jolliet expedition of 1673. The slides are glass and I feel they should be somewhere else more related to their purpose. The slides are part of the papers belonging Father Steck stored in an archive at Quincy College in Illinois. Any ideas? I think they dismantled a room that had all of his things and sold all his books of which I have purchased a selection. Sorry for rambling.

Hello William

It certainly sounds as if they have historical value. I suggest we put your request in our next E-Publication, (December 1st) which goes to all our members. Several are involved in research and some are based in University environments and may well have suggestions regarding the placing of these items. They should certainly be preserved and, if possible, digitised so that they can be more readily available to researchers

Thank you for contacting us and let us hope for an appropriate outcome.

Regards

David Evans  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Magic Lantern Society of US & Canada

## A Christmas Carol Performance

**From**

**Karin & Ludwig**

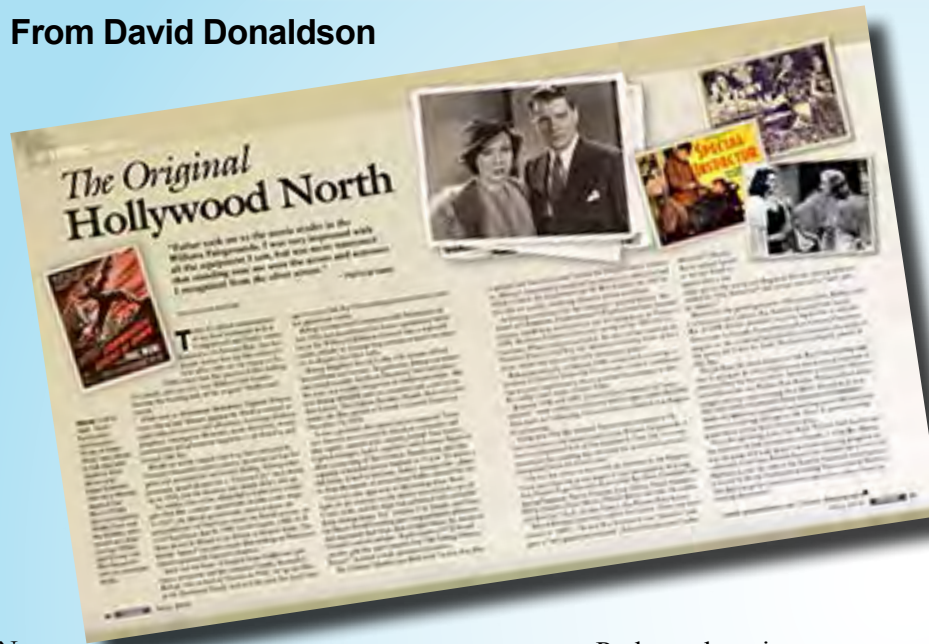
**Dickens Show  
December 3, 2017**





## Willow Park Studio in Victoria / J.P. McGowan Films

From David Donaldson



Now,  
I am coming in April to the convention with a topic on the Limelighters in Melbourne (Australia) in 1896-1909 or so.

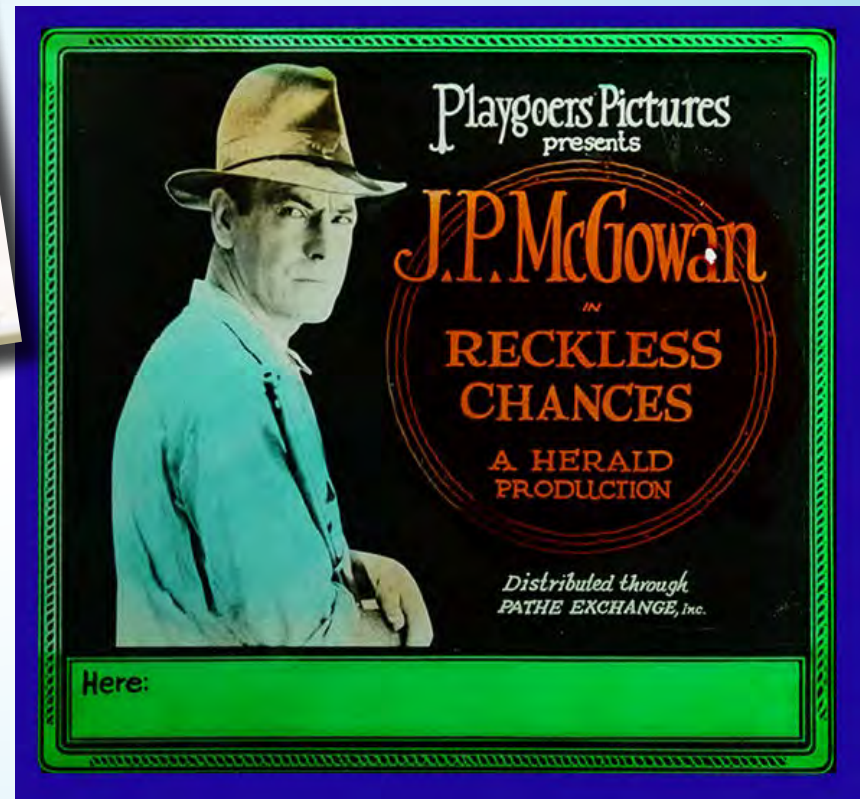
While in Victoria, I am interested to scout about the Willow Park studio operated in part for Columbia Pictures. Particularly, I am interested in J.P. McGowan's participation in four pictures made there in 1936 and 1937.

A good account of the studios appears here (move to page 20) - <https://issuu.com/blackpress/docs/i20130919181831567>

Perhaps there is someone in slide-land who shares interest in McGowan or someone in Vancouver who is interested in the history of the studio. I shall write to the author of the article, of course.

I can write up this interest for you, but first, does this one image below work for you? It is not from

Willow Park but it and a couple of other slides could go with my note. They were not for Magic Lantern use but does that matter?



Cheers  
David Donaldson  
Adelaide, South Australia  
Magic Lantern Society North America  
Convention 20-22 April 2018 at Victoria BC

### A Big Thank You to the following:

Richard Crangle  
David Donaldson  
Ron Easterday  
David & Lesley Evans  
Bob and Sue Hall  
Tom Sutter  
Sandra Ward  
William

*contributing to this months issue.*

### Now it's your turn to share!

Do you have a favorite site or a collection of images you would like to share with the rest of the society?

E-mail Larry



## Welcome New Members

### Mary Borgo Ton

3909 S Fox Chase Run, Bloomington, IN 47401

PhD Candidate , Digital Pedagogy Specialist  
Ph: 919-724-9248

meborgo@umail.iu.edu

Interests: Improved phantasmagoria lanterns,  
pre-1890 British slides,  
travel literature, memoirs.

### Kim L Smeja

1974 N River Road

Oregon

IL 61061-9080

Ph: (815) 994-0803

E: iamcowgirl54@gmail.com

Interests: Lanterns, slides vintage cinema.

Gives shows.

## Renewed Members

### David Francis & Joss Marsh

## Member Change/Update

new address is:

### John and Joan Newman

McKenzie hill

Victoria Australia 3451

jdjmnewman@gmail.com

+61421119924

## Group Northwest 2018 Meeting Dates Set



March						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

March 11

April 20-22 is  
the convention  
in Victoria BC

June						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

June 17

August						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

August 12

October						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

October 7